

**ABSTRACT**

A clamshell package opener includes a driver gear and an idler gear that are compressed against the die cut edge of the clamshell. As the gears are being compressed to hold the die cut edge, a cutting blade is positioned so as to puncture the clamshell package in the area adjacent the die cut edge and inside the same. Once the clamshell package has been punctured, the driver gear is rotated while the two gears are maintaining frictional engagement with the die cut edge. The rotation of the driver gear causes the die cut edge of the package to pass through the two gears while being cut by the cutting blade. This action is performed around the die cut edge of the clamshell package until the user may easily remove the contents of the same.